

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00
DLOS-09 OES-07 IO-14 INT-05 EPA-04 CEQ-01 JUSE-00
OMB-01 TRSE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /129 W
-----111516Z 038063 /42

R 111400Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8234
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 3183

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, SENV

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION:
KUWAITI RESPONSE

REF: KUWAIT 2780

1. SUMMARY: THE GOK HAS PROVIDED THE EMBASSY A STATEMENT OF KUWAITI VIEWS ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION ISSUES. THE STATEMENT UNDERLINES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLLUTION AND THE KUWAITI SHIPPING INDUSTRY, FAVORS SEGREGATED BALLAST BUT OPPOSES DOUBLE BOTTOMS, AND ASSERTS THAT INERT GAS AND BACK-UP RADAR SYSTEMS SHOULD BE "FULLY DISCUSSED." IT ALSO NOTES THAT EXPERTS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES ARE CONFERRING ON CREW STANDARDS, AND IT DOES NOT FAVOR MOVING UP THE IMCO CONFERENCE ON WATCHKEEPING AND TRAINING IF THE LATTER INTERFERES WITH THE FORMER. FINALLY THE GOK STATEMENT SAYS THAT KUWAIT DOES NOT OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE TO THE US-PROPOSED IMCO PLENARY CONFERENCE ON POLLUTION ISSUES, IF THE AGENDA WERE ACCEPTABLE, BUT IT NOTES THAT A
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MINISTERIAL-LEVEL PERSIAN GULF-GULF OF OMAN CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD BEFORE THEN (SEPTEMBER 1977) WHICH MAY LINK KUWAITI POLICY TO A REGIONAL PLICY ON MARINE POLLUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PROMISED LAST MONTH (REFTEL), THE GOK HAS SENT TO THE EMBASSY A STATEMENT OF VIEWS ON IMCO

MARINE POLLUTION ISSUES AND ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S MARCH 17 SPEECH ON MARINE POLLUTION, IN A LETTER TO THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS UNDER SEC. THE SUBSTANTIVE TEXT OF THIS STATEMENT FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT.

THE STATE OF KUWAIT IS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT ESPECIALLY FROM OIL SPILLAGES TO A VULNERABLE ECO-SYSTEM SUCH AS THAT OF THE SEMI-ENCLOSED ARABIAN GULF. IN THIS REGARD AND CONCERNING SHIP SPILLAGES THE RECORD INDICATES THAT KUWAIT HAS SPARED NO EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT PREVENTIVE AND PUNITIVE MEASURES.

THE STATE OF KUWAIT IS, HOWEVER, GRADUALLY DEVELOPING ITS SHIPPING INDUSTRY AND IN THIS REGARD ITS POLICY SHOULD BE GEARED TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY SUCH AS KUWAIT.

KUWAIT SHIPPING COMPANIES, AS A POLICY, HAVE ALWAYS ENDEAVORED TO ACQUIRE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED VESSELS, FITTED WITH THE LATEST EQUIPMENT. OUR ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IS IN SYMPATHY WITH EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE SUB-STANDARD SHIPS. THE FITTING OF SUCH EXTRA EQUIPMENT ITEMS THAT MAY HELP IN THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS BY KUWAITI VESSELS HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED.

IN SPECIFICS I WISH TO STATE THE FOLLOWING POINTS CONSISTING OF THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT:
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IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY KUWAIT THAT SEGREGATED BALLAST ON EXISTING TANKERS OF 70,000 TONS DEADWEIGHT OR MORE IS NECESSARY PRIOR TO THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE 1973 CONVENTION. THIS IN OUR VIEW COULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A PROPER L.O.T. SYSTEM AND BALLAST RECEPTION FACILITIES WHICH IN OUR CASE IS A COMPULSARY REQUIREMENT DUE TO THE "SPECIAL AREA" CONDITIONS OF THE (GULFS AREAS). NO FURTHER STRINGENT POLICY IS BELIEVED NECESSARY.

THE DOUBLE-BOTTOM PROPOSAL WAS DEFEATED AT THE 1973 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. KUWAIT DID NOT SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL DUE TO WHAT MAY BE INVOLVED IN FITTING THESE DOUBLE-BOTTOM TANKS AND A DROUGHT LIMITATION FOR TANKERS TRADING WITHIN THE ARABIAN GULF. FURTHERMORE EXCESSIVE CONSTRUCTION EXPENSES OF THESE TANKERS COULD CAUSE REGRESSIVE EFFECTS ON THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY OF KUWAIT. THESE

VIEWS HAVE NOT ALTERED.

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DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00
DLOS-09 OES-07 IO-14 INT-05 EPA-04 CEQ-01 JUSE-00
OMB-01 TRSE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02
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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8235
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REGARDING INERT GAS SYSTEMS/BACK-UP RADAR SYSTEMS/
IMPROVED EMERGENCY STANDARDS/ IN PRINCIPLE WE
ARE IN AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, THOSE REQUIREMENTS
SHOULD BE FULLY DISCUSSED BEFORE LEGISLATION ON
GLOBAL BASIS.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER STATES MEMBERS OF THE
LEAGUE OF ARAB NATIONS, THE POLICY REGARDING CREW
STANDARDS AND TRAINING IS BEING DEVELOPED. I
UNDERSTAND THAT CERTAIN PREPARATORY MEETINGS ARE
BEING HELD BY A GROUP OF EXPERTS FROM ARAB STATES
TO THAT END. THE STATE OF KUWAIT WOULD ONLY
APPROVE SWITCHING THE SCHEDULE OF THE CONFERENCE
ON WATCHKEEPING AND TRAINING TO AN EARLIER DATE
IF IT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH THE WORKING OF
THIS GROUP.

THE STATE OF KUWAIT HAS NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE
TO ATTENDING A CONFERENCE AT THE PLENIPOTENTIARY
LEVEL. BEFORE A DEFINITE REPLY COULD BE GIVEN WE
SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AND CONSIDER
THE AGENDA AND THE VARIOUS TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED
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IN SUCH A CONFERENCE. KUWAIT IS NEITHER A MEMBER OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE NOR THE COUNCIL OF IMCO; KUWAIT IS, HOWEVER, A MEMBER OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE AND OUR DETAILED VIEWS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE ON THIS MATTER.

FINALLY IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FROM OCTOBER 1977 THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT MAY BE LINKED TO A REGIONAL POLICY ENVISAGED THROUGH A CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES TO BE HELD IN KUWAIT 29TH SEPTEMBER-7TH OCTOBER ON THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE REGION OF THE ARABIAN GULF, GULF OF OMAN AND A SMALL SECTION OF THE ARABIAN SEA. THE PARTIES OF THE REGION CONCERNED WILL BE BAHRAIN, IRAN, IRAQ, OMAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND KUWAIT. NATURALLY MARINE POLLUTION BY OIL FROM SHIPS SHALL BE A MAJOR ISSUE IN THIS CONFERENCE AND I BELIEVE IMCO HAS PREPARED A SPECIAL PROTOCOL ON THIS SUBJECT.

IN CONCLUSION. MR. AMBASSADOR, I FULLY APPRECIATE THE PROBLEMS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WITH RESPECT TO THE ISSUES OF OIL POLLUTION FROM SHIPS. HOWEVER, THESE PROBLEMS SHOULD ALSO BE VIEWED ON A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE NEEDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. END TEXT.
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